

selecting the invariant characteristics that have a minimum variation with the abstracts in the at least one database of digital signal abstracts; and

defining a null case as a minimum variation from all the abstracts in the at least one database of digital signal abstracts.

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51. The system of claim 13, further comprising:
a device for attaching the corresponding reference signal abstract to each reference signal.
52. The system of claim 13, further comprising:
a device for associating the corresponding reference signal abstract with each reference signal.
53. The system of claim 13, wherein the linked reference signal is embedded with user dependent information.
54. The system of claim 53, wherein the user dependent information includes at least one of a user identification and a user address.
55. The system of claim 53, wherein the user dependent information is hashed prior to embedding.
56. The system of claim 53, wherein the user dependent information is digitally signed prior to embedding.
57. The system of claim 13, wherein the comparing device determines whether the query signal is an authorized signal.

58. A system for searching for and distributing electronic data, comprising:
a first input that receives a query abstract of a signal to locate;
a database containing a plurality of signal abstracts, the plurality of signal abstracts each having a corresponding signal;
a comparing device that compares the query abstract to the plurality of abstracts stored in the reference database to identify a matching signal abstract; and
a device for retrieving the signal corresponding to the matching signal abstract; and
a device for conducting a transaction, the transaction selected from the group consisting of a download and a subscription.

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59. The system of claim 58, wherein each signal abstract comprises a link to its corresponding signal.

60. The system of claim 58, wherein the comparing device determines if the signal abstracts stored in the database are authorized.

61. The system of claim 59, wherein the comparing device determines if the link is an authorized link.--

REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 49-61. No new matter is introduced by these claims, and these claims are fully supported by the specification. Claims 1-61 are pending.